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| PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW | | Docket Number Q92872 | |
| Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 | Application Number | Filed | |
| | 10/566,705 | February 1, 2006 | |
| | First Named Inventor | | |
| | Akira ICHIKAWA | | |
| | Art Unit | Examiner | |
| | 2123 | Eunhee KIM | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">WASHINGTON DC SUGHRUE/265550</p> <p style="text-align: center;">65565</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CUSTOMER NUMBER</p> | | | |
| <p>Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.</p> <p>This request is being filed with a notice of appeal</p> <p>The review is requested for the reasons(s) stated on the attached sheet(s). Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am an attorney or agent of record.</p> <p>Registration number 58,290</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>/Logan J. Brown 58,290/</u> Signature</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Logan J. Brown</u> Typed or printed name</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>(202) 293-7060</u> Telephone number</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>January 11, 2007</u> Date</p> | | | |

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q92872

Akira ICHIKAWA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/566,705

Group Art Unit: 2123

Confirmation No.: 8042

Examiner: Eunhee KIM

Filed: February 1, 2006

For: AUTOMATED DESIGN SYSTEM, AUTOMATED DESIGN METHOD AND
AUTOMATED DESIGN PROGRAM

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

MAIL STOP AF - PATENTS

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the Pre-Appeal Brief Conference Pilot Program, and further to the Examiner's Final Office Action dated July 12, 2007, Applicant files this Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review. This Request is also accompanied by the filing of a Notice of Appeal.

Applicant turns now to the rejections at issue:

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Li (USP 6,915,252).

Claim 1 relates to a automated design system for performing automated design of a product, and recites, *inter alia*:

**automated design means for performing
automated design using design requirement
particulars with respect to a design of the
product required by a customer or a**

designer, **designer discretion particulars by discretion of the designer with respect to the design of the product**, and the design rule necessary with respect to the design of the product,

. . .

design result determination means for determining whether a **design result** obtained by the automated design means **satisfies the determination rule . . .**

Applicant would like to draw the Examiners' attention to the clear error in the Examiner's rejection with regard to each of the above recited claim requirements and with regard to the rejection in general.

In the previous office action, the Examiner asserted that Li teaches "designer discretion particulars" in the teaching of the "physical design" in Column 10, Lines 46-55. (Office Action, P. 5). In the Advisory Action, the Examiner changed his position and asserted that such "designer discretion particulars" are taught by Li at Column 12, Lines 27-34. In the following discussion, Applicant will show why both of these interpretations are clearly erroneous.

First, with regard to the assertion that the "physical design" of Li teaches the "designer discretion particulars", assuming the physical design and the drc rule of Li do correspond to "designer discretion particulars" and "determination rule," respectively, the Examiner's assertion regarding the "design result discretion means" is inconsistent because in that case the verification tool of Li would verify if the "designer discretion particulars" meets each of the "determination rule." As recited in claim 1, "design result determination means" is for determining whether a design result obtained by the automated design means satisfies the determination rule, while the design result is obtained by using the design requirement particulars, the designer discretion particulars, and the design rule.

In view of these reasons, it is clear that the “physical design” of Li cannot teach the “designer discretion parameters” as required by the claims.

Second, with regard to the new assertion that the discussion at Column 12, Lines 27-34 teaches the “designer discretion particulars”, Applicant submits that the discussion clearly cannot teach “designer discretion particulars **by discretion of the designer with respect to the design of the product**” for at least two reasons.

First, the discussion cited relates to “specif[ying] parameters . . . **which can be used in the technology file 202 to translate the global design rule definition file into a non-native language format.**” (Li, Col. 12, Lns. 28-31). Applicant respectfully submits that **translating the global design rule definition file into a non-native language format** has **absolutely nothing** to do with a “automated design means for **performing automated design using**”. This could only be as such if **the design result were the translated global design rule definition file and not the physical design**. This is nonsensical and clearly erroneous.

Second, even assuming that such translation had anything to do with the creation of the physical design, (which Applicant respectfully submits is incorrect), Applicant respectfully submits that the specified parameters would still fail to be taught or suggested as “**by discretion of the designer with respect to the design of the product**” or even discretionary at all.

Parameters for the translation of a definition file into a non-native language are not be discretionary. If these parameters were incorrectly specified, the CAD program would not function. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the specification of these parameters is clearly not discretionary or “by discretion of the designer.” Further, these parameters are clearly applicable on a global level. (i.e. used to translate the **global design rule definition file**). As

such, Applicant respectfully submits that these parameters are not “by discretion” with respect to the “physical design” being designed by the automated design means.

In view of these reasons, it is clear that the parameters discussed in Column 12, Lines 27-34 cannot teach the “designer discretion parameters” as required by the claims.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that, regardless of which interpretation is used, the reference clearly cannot be said to teach or suggest “**automated design means for performing automated design using** design requirement particulars with respect to a design of the product required by a customer or a designer, **designer discretion particulars by discretion of the designer with respect to the design of the product**, and the design rule necessary with respect to the design of the product.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Li fails to disclose each and every element of the claim. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of independent claim 1, as well as dependant claims 2 and 7, should be withdrawn. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 3 and 5 would not have been anticipated by Li for similar reasons and requests that the withdrawal of the rejection to these claims too. Finally, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 6, 8 and 9 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence from claims 3 and 5 and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection to these claims as well.

Respectfully submitted,

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